

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants claimed priority to Swedish application 9902103-2 filed June 7, 1999. Acknowledgement of that foreign priority claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the first filed Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants recently submitted a second Information Disclosure Statement on May 27, 2003. Consideration and a returned, initialed PTO-1449 form are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been amended to make a number of editorial changes to improve readability and formatting.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bridle (GB 2137791 A). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bridle discloses a spectral distance processor for comparing spectral taking from speech in the presence of estimated background noise. As explained on page 2, lines 18-26, both the input spectrum and the template spectrum are masks with an *estimate* of input noise. Samples of each masked spectrum are marked with a noise mark depending on whether the sample is estimated to be speech or noise. Because Bridle's spectral distance processor is intended to operated with fluctuating and high noise levels, it is quite sophisticated and complex.

Although there may be situations where such complexity and sophistication are appropriate, there are other instances when they are unnecessary. One such instance is when the noise level conditions are relatively low and the noise spectrums predominantly come from known noise signals. An example of a known noise signal is a ring signal generated by a mobile phone. Ring signals have a well-defined known frequency spectrum and may be pre-stored in memory. Of course, several known noise spectrums

may also be stored in memory. The spectral distance calculator identifies and selects the current noise spectrum to be used in the masking procedures.

In contrast to the spectral distance calculator in claim 10, Bridle does not prestore "one or more noise spectrums of one or more known noise signals including the first known noise signal." Nor does Bridle perform "a spectral distance calculation comparing an input spectrum of an input signal in the presence of a first known noise signal and a reference spectrum." As described above, Bridle's noise spectrum is not known; instead, it must be estimated. Not only does such an estimate require more sophisticated and complex software/circuitry, a noise estimate by definition is less accurate and reliable than a known noise signal. By employing known noise signals, the spectral distance calculator in claim 10 is simpler (and therefore cheaper) to implement and more reliable in masking noise signals. Lower complexity/costs and greater reliability are particularly advantageous in speech recognition systems, such as claimed in claim 14, and mobile telephones that incorporate such speech recognition systems as set forth in claim 17.

Although there are several obviousness rejections of the originally-filed dependent claims which combine Bridle with secondary references, these secondary references do not cure the deficiencies with Bridle with respect to claim 10. Applicants have also added dependent claims 13, 16, and 21 that specify with some particularity how the spectral distance calculation may be made.

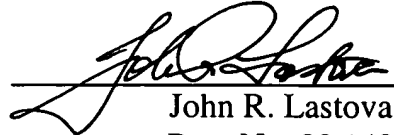
The application is in condition for allowance.

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